



Ontario
Home Builders'
Association

Media Release

It is Time to Make Affordability and Fairness a Cornerstone of Ontario's Planning System

Province Must Ensure New Neighbours Stop Carrying Burden of Ontario's Infrastructure Renewal

Toronto, August 20 2013 – The Ontario Home Builders' Association (OHBA) welcomed the announcement by Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Hon. Linda Jeffrey, that the provincial government intends to launch consultations on Ontario's land-use planning system and growth-related infrastructure financing.

“Currently new neighbours are being forced to finance massive infrastructure projects and urban renewal across Ontario. The *Development Charges Act* should be renamed the *New Neighbour Tax*,” said OHBA C.O.O. Joe Vaccaro.

OHBA recognizes that the time is right for the province, municipalities and industry to make affordability and fairness a cornerstone of Ontario's planning system.

“This is an opportunity to have a fact-based discussion about how Ontario's lengthy and complex public planning system is challenging housing affordability and adding to the costs of new communities for Ontarians,” said Vaccaro.

Minister Jeffrey also announced that the provincial government would launch a consultation to evaluate the Development Charges Act and other related taxes, fees and charges that municipalities levy onto the costs of new homes. OHBA has, for several years, expressed serious concerns that increasing government-imposed charges are driving up the cost of housing. Increasing prices for housing is progressively impacting the ability for Ontarians to purchase appropriate housing to suit their needs. This is limiting opportunities for economic growth while reducing our competitiveness with other jurisdictions.

“By placing the new neighbours at the centre of this discussion in terms of affordability and fairness, we welcome the opportunity to have a detailed discussion on the impact of development charges, parkland dedication fees, section 37 agreements and voluntary charges on new communities. The cost for families to purchase a home has skyrocketed in recent years and new neighbours can no longer afford additional taxes,” noted Vaccaro, adding, “OHBA has been advocating for greater accountability and transparency by municipal governments so that new neighbours understand that up to one quarter of the cost of their new home is paying for the infrastructure used by the broader community.”

The Ontario Home Builders' Association is the voice of the residential construction industry in Ontario representing 4,000 member companies organized into 30 local associations across the province. The industry contributes over \$43 billion to Ontario's economy, employing over 325,000 people across the province.

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*For further information or to arrange an interview with OHBA COO Joe Vaccaro
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